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139

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 15 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today strongly supported "firm oil import limitations aimed at maintaining a viable and healthy U.S. oil producing economy".

In a statement submitted to the Cabinet Task Force on Oil Import Controls, Dole said, "No resource policy has been better established than that of limiting oil imports."

"It is rooted in Congressional debate and hearings throughout many years and in repeated studies by the Executive branch of government. It is significant that all of these sources have concluded that our nation must have access to adequate petroleum fuels within our own controls, avoiding overdependence on remote, insecure and vulnerable petroleum sources."

Noting that "today's world situation makes this policy even more valid and vital," Dole added, "Most available oil in the so-called Free World is controlled by countries affected by political or religious upheaval and unrest and which have proven themselves hostile to the U.S."

"With these countries developing tremendous volumes of low cost oil and competing for the largest and best single oil market in the U.S., the pressures are tremendous to displace our oil with foreign oil," he said.

"If the U.S. oil import policy were relaxed," Dole said, "the economic pressures would be unbearable, perhaps ending in total displacement of the oil producing industry in the U.S."

(more)

Page Two
July 15, 1969
Senator Dole

138 (cont'd)

"We need a well-reasoned, effective and equitable government program which assures a reasonable balance between oil imports and domestic production," Dole said. "The basis for the policy has and should continue to be grounded upon the national interest to have accessible petroleum supplies adequate to meet any contingency, including emergency shortages resulting from political turmoil such as the 1956-57 Suez crisis and the Arab-Israeli war."

Pointing out the significance of the oil industry in Kansas, Dole said in 1968, the value of oil and natural gas production in the state was about a half billion dollars and employed 27,800 people. Direct tax collections by Kansas counties from oil and gas production in 1966 totalled \$17,144,000 used primarily for the state's public schools.

In his statement, Dole also urged "that efforts be made to assure that the Mandatory Oil Import program be administered on the basis of clearly-defined standards which apply equitably to all affected persons, companies and organizations."

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